

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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R 071716Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3717  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16735

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR FR SS AG MO MR LY US UR  
SUBJ: QUAI GLEANINGS ON NORTH AFRICAN MATTERS

1. IN CONVERSATION JUNE 6, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA TRISTAN D'ALBIS MADE SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HAPPENINGS IN THE MAGHREB, BEGINNING WITH THE COMMENT THAT A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER HAD JUST TOLD HIM THAT ALGERIA HAD BACKED OFF FROM AN EARLIER DECISION TO GO TO WAR WITH MOROCCO OVER THE SAHARA. THE RUSSIAN PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS, BUT THE INFERENCE THAT THE SOVIETS HAD PLAYED A MODERATING ROLE WAS CLEARLY INTENDED. THE REPORTED CHANGE IN THE ALGERIAN ATTITUDE IS IN LINE WITH OTHER (UNSPECIFIED) INDICATIONS THE FRENCH HAVE HAD, ALBIS SAID.

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2. ACCORDING TO ALBIS, DURING THE MAY VISIT TO MOROCCO OF THE HEAD OF THE FIRST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY, SHVEDOV PROMISED THAT THE USSR WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC. A WRITTEN AGREEMENT TO THAT EFFECT IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED SOON. THE ALGERIANS HAVE WIND OF IT AND ARE FURIOUS.

3. ALBIS SAID THERE IS NOTHING NEW ON EFFORTS TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE SIX FRENCH HOSTAGES. THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO HOLD THE ALGERIANS RESPONSIBLE WHILE THE LATTER INSIST THAT THE FRENCH MUST DEAL WITH THE POLISARIO. HE SAW NO EARLY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, AND SPECULATED THAT BY KEEPING THE HOSTAGES, THE ALGERIANS MAY HOPE TO SECURE FRENCH INTERCESSION WITH MOROCCO TO RESOLVE THE SAHARAN PROBLEM.

4. ALBIS GAVE SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS SIGNS THAT ALGERIAN RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND THE POLISARIO ARE NOT GOOD. FIRST, THE LIBYANS PRESSED THE POLISARIO TO DECLARE SAHRAOUI INDEPENDENCE, THUS DESTROYING ALGERIA'S SELF-DETERMINATION THESIS, AND THEN HELD BACK FROM RECOGNIZING THE SELF-PROCLAIMED GOVERNMENT. SECOND, THE LIBYANS OPPOSED THE MEDIATION EFFORT OF THE SAUDIS LAST FALL, WHILE ALGERIA CAUTIOUSLY ACCEPTED IT. THIRD, BOUTEFLIKA'S LETTER TO UNSYG WALDHEIM IMPLYING RECOGNITION BY ALGERIA OF THE SPANISH CENSUS OF THE SAHARA ANGERED THE SAHRAOUI AND THEIR LIBYAN BACKERS. FINALLY, THE RECENT STATEMENT BY THE SAHRAOUI MINISTER OF INFORMATION THAT SELF-DETERMINATION WAS NOT NEEDED SINCE IT HAD ALREADY OCCURED MIFFED THE ALGERIANS.

5. ON US-ALGERIANS RELATIONS, ALBIS THOUGHT THAT THEIR CURRENTLY RELATIVELY GOOD STATE WAS EXPLAINED PRIMARILY BY ALGERIAN CONCERN THAT GAS CONTRACTS WITH US

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COMPANIES BE SETTLED. SECONDARY REASONS ARE THE FACT THAT BOUMEDIENNE IS MUCH FIRMER IN THE SADDLE THAN A YEAR AGO AND HIS CURRENT DESIRE TO RILE THE FRENCH BY APPEARING TO CUDDLE UP TO THE AMERICANS.

GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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